

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for maintaining a generally consistent level of water in a depleting body of water, comprising:
- a) providing a depleting body of water;
 - b) providing a discharge unit laterally displaced from said depleting body of water;
 - 10 c) providing said discharge unit with a water inlet and a water outlet;
 - d) providing a water conduit extending to said water inlet from a supply source of water;
 - f) positioning said water outlet so as to transmit water in an above-ground trajectory laterally into said depleting body of water;
 - 15 g) determining a water depletion amount;
 - h) establishing a water flow through said discharge device and out of said water outlet in said above-ground trajectory into said body of water based on the water depletion amount determined.
- 20 2. The method of claim 1, further including providing said body of water as a swimming or wading pool for humans.
3. The method of claim 2, further including providing steps leading down into said water for humans to walk into said body of water.
- 25 4. The method of claim 2, further including providing a ladder leading down into said water for humans to climb into said body of water.

5. The method of claim 2, further including providing said pool as an above ground pool.

5 6. The method of claim 2, further including providing said pool as an in-ground pool.

7. The method of claim 2, further including providing said pool with concrete bottom and side walls.

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8. The method of claim 1, further including having said outlet of said discharge unit laterally displaced at least about two feet from said body of water.

9. The method of claim 8, further including having said outlet of said discharge
15 unit laterally displaced at least about four feet from said body of water.

10. The method of claim 8, further including having said outlet of said discharge unit laterally displaced at least about eight feet from said body of water.

20 11. The method of claim 8, further including having said outlet of said discharge unit laterally displaced at least about ten feet from said body of water.

12. The method of claim 1, further including providing said discharge unit with a base that rests at a level substantially equal to a top of a perimeter wall around said
25 body of water over which water discharged from said discharge unit is discharged.

13. The method of claim 1, further including having said discharge unit discharge water through said outlet at an inclination of between horizontal (90 degrees) and vertical (zero degrees).

5 14. The method of claim 13, further including having said discharge unit discharge water through said outlet at an inclination of between about 15 degrees and 75 degrees.

15. The method of claim 1, further including having the angle at which said
10 discharge outlet discharges be adjustable via an adjustment mechanism.

16. The method of claim 2, further including providing said pool with a patio area surrounding at least a portion of the pool and having said discharge unit configured to discharge water over said patio area into said pool.

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17. The method of claim 16, further including having said patio area configured for walking and substantially free from obstruction from between said discharge unit and said pool such that individuals can freely walk between said discharge unit and said pool along a substantially continuous and substantially flat patio surface.

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18. The method of claim 1, further including providing said discharge unit in the shape of an animal.

19. The method of claim 1, further including providing said discharge unit in the
25 shape of a frog, and wherein said water outlet is located in a mouth region of the frog.

20. The method of claim 1, further including having said discharge unit configured in the shape of a natural item so as to blend in with the landscaping surrounding the body of water.

5 21. The method of claim 1, further including having said determining water depletion amount include determining water evaporation amount.

22. The method of claim 21, further including having said determining water depletion amount include user observation of water level lowering in the body of water
10 over a period of time.

23. The method of claim 21, further including having said means for determining water depletion amount include a water level sensor that senses a level of water in said body of water for transmitting a signal related thereto.

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24. The method of claim 1, further including providing a timer mechanism for opening and closing said valve for a period of time.

25. The method of claim 24, further including providing means for setting said
20 timer mechanism to open and/or close said valve.

26. The method of claim 25, further including having said valve located within said discharge unit.

25 27. The method of claim 25, further including having said timer mechanism located within said discharge unit.

28. A system for replenishing water depleted from a body of water, comprising:

a) a depleting body of water;

b) a discharge unit laterally displaced from said depleting body of water;

c) said discharge unit having a water inlet and a water outlet;

5 d) a supply source of water;

e) a water conduit extending to said water inlet from said supply source of water;

f) said water outlet being positioned so as to transmit water in an above-ground trajectory laterally into said depleting body of water;

10 g) means for determining water depletion amount;

h) a valve for establishing water flow through said discharge device and out of said water outlet in said above-ground trajectory into said body of water at a rate corresponding to water depletion in the body of water.

15 29. The system of claim 28, wherein said body of water is a swimming or wading pool for humans.

30. The system of claim 39, wherein said body of water includes steps leading down into said water for humans to walk into said body of water.

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31. The system of claim 29, wherein said body of water includes a ladder leading down into said water for humans to climb into said body of water.

32. The system of claim 29, wherein said pool is an above ground pool.

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33. The system of claim 29, wherein said pool is an in-ground pool.

34. The system of claim 29, wherein said pool has concrete bottom and side walls.

35. The system of claim 28, wherein said outlet of said discharge unit is laterally displaced at least about two feet from said body of water.

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36. The system of claim 35, wherein said outlet of said discharge unit is laterally displaced at least about four feet from said body of water.

37. The system of claim 35, wherein said outlet of said discharge unit is laterally
10 displaced at least about eight feet from said body of water.

38. The system of claim 35, wherein said outlet of said discharge unit is laterally displaced at least about ten feet from said body of water.

15 39. The system of claim 28, wherein said discharge unit has a base that rests at a level substantially equal to a top of a perimeter wall around said body of water over which water discharged from said discharge unit is discharged.

40. The system of claim 28, wherein said discharge unit discharges water through
20 said outlet at an inclination of between horizontal (90 degrees) and vertical (zero degrees).

41. The system of claim 40, wherein said discharge unit discharges water through said outlet at an inclination of between about 15 degrees and 75 degrees.

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42. The system of claim 28, wherein the angle at which said discharge outlet discharges is adjustable.

43. The system of claim 29, wherein said pool has a patio area surrounding at least a portion of the pool and said discharge unit is configured to discharge water over said patio area into said pool.

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44. The system of claim 43, wherein said patio area is configured for walking and is substantially free from obstruction from between said discharge unit and said pool such that individuals can freely walk between said discharge unit and said pool along a substantially continuous and substantially flat patio surface.

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45. The system of claim 28, wherein said discharge unit is configured in the shape of an animal.

46. The system of claim 28, wherein said discharge unit is configured in the shape of a frog, and wherein said water outlet is located in a mouth region of the frog.

47. The system of claim 28, wherein said discharge unit is configured in the shape of a natural item so as to blend in with the landscaping surrounding the body of water.

48. The system of claim 28, wherein said means for determining water depletion amount includes means for determining water evaporation amount.

49. The system of claim 48, wherein said means for determining water depletion amount includes user observation of water level lowering in the body of water over a period of time.

50. The system of claim 48, wherein said means for determining water depletion amount includes a water level sensor that senses a level of water in said body of water for transmitting a signal related thereto.

5 51. The system of claim 28, further including a timer mechanism for opening and closing said valve for a period of time.

52. The system of claim 51, further including means for setting said timer mechanism to open and/or close said valve.

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53. The system of claim 52, wherein said valve is located within said discharge unit.

54. The system of claim 52, wherein said timer mechanism is located within said discharge unit.

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55. The system of claim 28, wherein said body of water is a swimming pool having a maximum depth of at least four feet deep.

56. The system of claim 55, wherein said swimming pool has a maximum depth of
20 at least 9 feet deep.

57. The system of claim 28, wherein said body of water is a swimming pool and includes at least one water playing device from the group consisting of: a diving board extending over said pool; a water slide extending over a side edge of said pool; and a
25 water volley ball net extending laterally over said pool.

58. The system of claim 28, wherein said discharge unit is entirely separate from a water filtration system of said body of water.

59. The system of claim 28, wherein said discharge unit is entirely separate from a water re-circulation system for said body of water, such that water in said body of water is not re-circulated through said discharge unit.

60. The system of claim 28, wherein said discharge unit discharges substantially water from a source independent from said body of water, which source does not originate from said body of water.